THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government, health care is one of the seven thrust areas. The NCMP mandates an increase in expenditure in health sector, with main focus on Primary Health Care from current level of 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which is the main vehicle for giving effect to the above mandate has been implemented throughout the country, with special focus on 18 states which includes Rajasthan. All the arid zones of Rajasthan are covered under the NRHM.

The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It also aims at bridging the gap in Rural Health care services through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA),and improved hospital care, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources.

Spurious AIDS medicines

2086. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of inferior quality of medicines for HIV and AIDS diseases have been located recently by Government;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the number of HIV and AIDS patients are increasing rapidly in the country as a result of use of this adultered medicines; and

(c) the actions being taken by Government to stop further production of false medicines and to save the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No such information in this regard has been received. Under the National AIDS Control Programme, the medicines are procured from WHO-accredited pharmaceutical companies following laid down criteria through open tender process. The drugs are tested prior to dispatch to the anti-retroviral treatment centres located in government hospitals.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Malaria and TB in Jharkhand

2087. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the MINISTR OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people are affected by malaria and T.B. annually in Jharkhand; and

(b) how many people died of malaria and T.B. annually in Jharkhand district-wise, disease-wise and year-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Malaria cases